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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
NORTHERN DIVISION
2006 NOV 8 PM 4:42
DEBRA P. HACKETT, CLK
DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT ALA

L. JOE PITTS, As Administrator of)
the Estate of SANDRA ANN)
SPENCER PITTS, Deceased,)

PLAINTIFF,)

VS.)

BRIDGESTONE AMERICAS)
HOLDINGS, INC.;)
BRIDGESTONE FIRESTONE)
NORTH AMERICAN TIRE, LLC;)
and BFS RETAIL AND)
COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS,)
LLC, Doing Business As)
FIRESTONE TIRE & SERVICE)
CENTERS, jointly and severally,)

DEFENDANTS.)
/

CIVIL ACTION NUMBER:

2:06cv1008-1D

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

COMPLAINT

1. Plaintiff L. Joe Pitts, as administrator, brings this action under the Alabama Wrongful Death Act, Ala. Code § 6-5-410, for damages for the wrongful death of his wife, Sandra Ann Spencer Pitts, on June 19, 2006, in Butler, County, Alabama, which said wrongful death was proximately caused and/or contributed to by the defendants' negligence and/or

wantonness in connection with repairs to the left rear tire of the vehicle in which the plaintiff's decedent was riding as a passenger at the time of her death.

JURISDICTION

2. This Court has diversity of citizenship subject-matter jurisdiction of this action under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a) because the plaintiff is a resident of Alabama and each of the defendants is incorporated and principally located in a state other than Alabama, and plaintiff claims damages in an amount greater than \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs, thus satisfying the amount in controversy requirement.

VENUE

3. Venue in this Court is proper in that the occurrences made the basis of this action occurred in Butler County, Alabama, which is in the Northern Division of this judicial district.

PARTIES

4. Plaintiff L. Joe Pitts is over the age of 19 years and is a resident of Montgomery County, Alabama. Plaintiff is the duly and lawfully appointed administrator of the estate of Sandra Ann Spencer Pitts, deceased.

5. Defendant Bridgestone Americas Holdings, Inc. ("BAHI"), is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Nevada

with its principal place of business in Nashville, Tennessee. BAH I is registered to do business in Alabama. At all times relevant to this action, BAH I was the parent corporation and principal of its agents, defendant Bridgestone Firestone North American Tire, LLC, and/or defendant BFS Retail and Commercial Operations, LLC, d/b/a Firestone Tire & Service Centers.

6. Defendant Bridgestone Firestone North American Tire, LLC (“BFNAT”), is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware with its principal place of business in Nashville, Tennessee. BFNAT is registered to do business in Alabama. At all times relevant to this action, BFNAT was a wholly-owned subsidiary of BAH I. BFNAT and/or BAH I were the parent corporations of defendant BFS Retail and Commercial Operations, LLC, d/b/a Firestone Tire & Service Centers. Further, at all times relevant to this action, BFNAT was the agent of BAH I and BFNAT was the principal of its agent, defendant BFS Retail and Commercial Operations, LLC, d/b/a Firestone Tire & Service Centers.

7. Defendant BFS Retail and Commercial Operations, LLC (“BFSRCO”), is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware with its principal place of business in Bloomingdale, Illinois. BFSRCO is registered to do business in Alabama. At all times

relevant to this action, BFSRCO was a wholly-owned subsidiary and agent of BFNAT and/or BAH, and BFSRCO owned and operated retail automotive tire sales and repair stores, as unincorporated company-owned businesses, under the name "Firestone Tire & Service Centers," including the hereinafter described Firestone Tire & Service Center store located at 321 Madison Avenue, Montgomery, Montgomery County, Alabama.

COUNT ONE

NEGLIGENT AND/OR WANTON REPAIR

8. Plaintiff realleges each and every preceding paragraph of this complaint and incorporates same by reference into this Count One as if here set out in full.

9. On February 26, 2005, plaintiff's decedent Sandra Ann Spencer Pitts took her 2001 Chevrolet Blazer vehicle to the Firestone Tire & Service Centers location at 321 Madison Avenue, Montgomery, Montgomery County, Alabama, which was then owned and operated by BFSRCO as the wholly-owned subsidiary and agent of BFNAT and/or BAH. At that time and place, said defendants, for a valuable consideration, undertook to service the said vehicle (e.g., oil change, replaced the alternator drive belt, and undertook to repair a puncture in the left rear tire). Said defendants

represented to Sandra Ann Spencer Pitts both orally and in writing that they had properly repaired the said left rear tire by using both a patch and a plug.

10. Defendants negligently and/or wantonly repaired said left rear tire by failing to properly install both a patch and a plug in the said left rear tire, but instead installed only a plug and not a patch. Said defendants knew or should have known that both a patch and a plug were required to properly repair the said tire in order to make it safe for use. Despite said defendants' aforesaid knowledge and the fact that said defendants represented to Sandra Ann Spencer Pitts that both a patch and plug had been used to properly repair the said left rear tire, and despite the fact that said defendants charged Sandra Ann Spencer Pitts for both a patch and plug, defendants negligently and/or wantonly failed to patch said left rear tire, but rather only used a plug to repair said tire, thus rendering the said tire unsafe for its intended purpose.

12. As a proximate result and consequence of the defendants' said negligence and/or wantonness, on June 19, 2006, Sandra Ann Spencer Pitts was killed when the said left rear tire of the said 2001 Chevrolet Blazer in which she was a passenger detreaded while being driven upon a public highway, to-wit: Interstate I-65, in Butler County, Alabama, causing the driver to lose control of the vehicle and overturn on the said highway, which resulted in the death of Sandra Ann Spencer Pitts. Plaintiff further avers that

the defendants' negligent and/or wanton repair of said left rear tire caused it to detread at the said time and place, thereby resulting in Sandra Ann Spencer Pitts's death.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff demands judgment against defendants Bridgestone Americas Holdings, Inc.; Bridgestone Firestone North American Tire, LLC; and BFS Retail and Commercial Operations, LLC, jointly and severally, in an amount of punitive damages sufficient to deter these defendants and others similarly situated from similar wrongful conduct and wrongful deaths under similar circumstances.


One of the Plaintiff's Attorneys

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JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff demands trial by jury of all issues in this cause.



One of the Plaintiff's Attorneys

SERVE DEFENDANTS BY CERTIFIED MAIL AS FOLLOWS:

BRIDGESTONE AMERICAS HOLDINGS, INC.

c/o National Registered Agents, Inc., Agents for Service of Process
150 South Perry Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36104

BRIDGESTONE FIRESTONE NORTH AMERICAN TIRE, LLC

c/o National Registered Agents, Inc., Agents for Service of Process
150 South Perry Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36104

BFS RETAIL AND COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS, LLC

c/o National Registered Agents, Inc., Agents for Service of Process
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